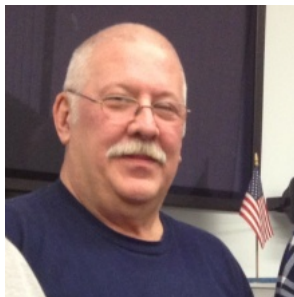




SHORT SKIP

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
LAKE COUNTY AMATEUR
RADIO CLUB, INC.
W9LJ

January 2013, Issue 1, Volume 61



Echo Zulu Baker Report

Bob Wiberg, WD9EZB

First of all, I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. My name is Bob and my call is WD9EZB. I will be serving as President for 2013. At this time I have a lot to

learn about the Clubs many activities so we can continue with the progress that has been ongoing over the years. First, a tentative space of time has been put together for the ARISS contact for the Watson Academy. The proposed dates are May 6-12 (one date to be selected). John Spasojevich, AG9D is the ARISS Mentor or Technical Advisor for this event, and will be supplying the antenna system including the rotor, control cables, computer tracking and back up antenna, coax and primary radio. Set up day is typically the Saturday before contact. We will need assistance pulling cables and getting everything set and ready to go. Let's give this endeavor all the support we can. Next, we will need to continue to look for alternative fundraising ideas (instead of a hamfest) to help raise money. Hamfests across the country are diminishing in size and ours has been no different. If you have comments, questions or ideas, please feel free to email me (wd9ezb@ameritech.net) or come to a meeting and bring the subject up. With your support we can continue moving the club forward and have a good time in the process. 73's for now and hope to see you at the next meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 11th: Club Meeting &
Swearing in of the new
officer cabinet

Feb 8th: Club Meeting

Every Thursday @ 8pm
LCARC's Weekly
Information Net

It's once again that time of year to renew your membership to the Lake County Amateur Radio Club. If you have not already renewed or are looking to become a member, please fill out and send in the membership form at the end of this newsletter and/or see Jim KF9EX at the next club meeting.

In this Issue of Short Skip

2. LCARC December Meeting Minutes
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8. Short History of Amateur radio
9. Ritual

Short Skip

Needs Your Help

We want to bring you a full and jammed packed issue of Short Skip every month, but we need help! We are looking for: Computer and Ham radio related Reviews, Tips, Rants and Raves.

**Email them to
KC9UNS@Gmail.com**



Pat N9FXT
Dave AA9XS
Michael W9DDK
Stan AA3P

If we miss your birthday or got it wrong, please let us know

LCARC December Meeting Minutes

John Gianotti, W9WY

Reading of Minutes of Last Meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read.

Treasure Report:

Treasure Report read by Jim, KF9EX. Jim advised we have an insurance bill coming up in January. Accepted as read. Jim, KF9EX requested volunteers for audit committee. They are John, W9WY, Ken, KE9TC, Ben, KC9UNS, and Marv, WV9O. Jim will schedule a meeting.

Repeater Report:

All is well
Marv, WV9O reported the 145.45 machine is up and running at the EMA building. It will be used for hospital communications.

DX Report:

Mark, KF9EX reported 10 meters was doing well until the 10 meter contest. Mike, WU9D reported solar fluxes coming back.

RACES Report:

Jim, KF9EX sent out an FYI RE the new format. Drill January 10, 2013

Old Business:

We need nominations for President and Vice-President. Nominations were received from the floor. We have a Treasurer, Jim KF9EX and a Secretary, Ben, KC9UNS. Marv nominated Bob, WD9EZB for President he accepted, Russ, KB9HO was nominated for Vice-President. Nominees were approved by acclimation.

Mark, reported the ARES contact in Gary is moving along. One date in March, one in May. The March date conflicts with ISTEP testing. A third possibility is a telebridge in April.

New Business:

Ben KC9UNS read the Net report: Nov 15 - 9 check-in, Nov 29 - 17 check-ins (a record), Dec 6 - 11 check-ins, Dec 13 - 9 check-ins

Mark, K9MQ did a recap of what the club accomplished this year. He also thanked the board and all those who helped out over the year.

- The 147.240 repeater was repaired and has been back on the air 24/7.
- The LCARC's carbon footprint was reduced, by changing the board meeting to the same night as the club meeting. This also saved the membership time and money from not having to attend two separate meetings.
- The two surplus Motorola base

stations, that sat unused for a few years, were sold.

- Two Kenwood plug and play vhf and uhf repeater systems were purchased to work with our new controller from the previous Motorola project. Our repeater cabinet was totally stripped of all equipment, cleaned, and then new equipment and selected old equipment was re-installed for a clean and streamlined installation. Both new repeaters were on the air, within 80 days from the first time all the new 201 2 officers and directors first met as a group.

- The club now has working backup repeater systems for 147.000, 442.075, and 147.240 ready to be utilized within a moment's notice.

- All club equipment was inventoried and photographed.

- To make it easier to promote our organization on the club repeaters, the w9lj.org domain name was secured.

- The club banner was also updated with the new site.

- As a club, we came in first place within Lake County in the Indiana QSO Party, while at the same time promoting amateur radio from the Boy Scout Jamboree at the Lake County Fairgrounds.

- The Gary Literacy Coalition sought assistance from us to help with an ARISS contact at Watson Boy's Academy in Gary. While we are not able to provide everything that is possibly needed to host a contact, we were able to use our past ARISS experiences to help direct the GLC to the right people. The knowledge we had, helped them complete a successful application to the program.

- A new ground rod was installed at the tower site.

- The club came together and celebrated 60 years at a special dinner meeting at Schoops.

- We had a successful fundraiser at Five Guy's Hamburgers in Schererville.

- After over a decade of not having a club net, a club information net was created on Thursday nights to help promote our organization.

- Those that attended, had a great time operating the N9D special event station from the Indiana Dunes State Park. Mark, K9MQ questioned if we wanted to have a hamfest next year. The general consensus was NO.

- Some discussion was held as to events we wanted to do as a club next year.

Program:

None - just cake and coffee and camaraderie.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 local.

2013 Officers

President: WD9EZB
Bob Wiberg

Vice President: KB9HO
Russ McComb

Secretary: KC9UNS
Benjamin Straw

Treasurer: KF9EX
Jim Harney

Trustee: WV9O
Marv Boetcher

Directors

As of 1/1/2013

Kerry Ores KB9ORH
Bill Young N9QLS
Ken Brown KE9TC
Bob Nelms WD9FNY
Mark Skowronski K9MQ

Editorial Staff

Editor KC9UNS
Benjamin Straw
(kc9uns@gmail.com)

Club Resources

W9LJ/R 147.000 + PL 131.8
W9LJ/R (St. John) 147.240 + PL 131.8
W9LJ/R 442.075 + PL 131.8

Repeater Nets

Thursday Night @ 8 pm:
LCARC Weekly Information Net

Meetings

January 11, 2013

BOARD MEETING
LCEMA OFFICE,
2900 93rd Ave
Crown Point
(Across from Gov. Ctr.)
6:30 p.m.

January 11, 2013

CLUB MEETING
2900 93rd Ave
Crown Point
(Across from Gov. Ctr.)
7:30 p.m.

December 2012 LCARC Meeting



QCWA Chapter 36 Meeting Information

Stan Vandiver, W4SV

Details of our upcoming meetings, and highlights of past meetings, can always be found at <http://www.chapter36.org/meetings.html>.

It is not necessary to be a QCWA member to attend breakfast and dinner meetings. All are welcome. Use this link to check on future dates: (<http://www.chapter36.org/meetings.html>).

We had a great time for our last meeting of 2012, with 24 people attending, including for the first time together, all three of our Century Club Award holders: Gene W9CWG, Ron W9FB, and John W9ZG (see photo below).

With all that food and fun, we didn't even realize that we didn't have any show and tell for this meeting. And we didn't really take time for any business for that matter, including soliciting nominations for our Chapter Election next month. So be sure to come out for our January meeting so YOU can be nominated and elected this time! :-)

Even without a regular business meeting, I still spread the word around that the upcoming Winter Journal will be the last printed edition. We are fortunate to have a very connected group, and all but two of our members have access to the QCWA Members-only website to download the future digital editions of The Journal, which will now be a monthly magazine instead of quarterly. I think we have the ability to get The Journal to our other two members also, so this changeover should have little or no effect on us.

One last thing: There have been a couple of requests now to ask our members and guests to wear a hat, or shirt, or badge with your call sign on it (name and call would be good too, of course). Many of us have become familiar with our regular members, but it still can be difficult for newcomers or those who attend infrequently. So, if you have an item that you can wear to our dinners, please do. And if you see anyone you don't know already, please take a moment to introduce yourself to them. Thanks!

Photos by Stan W4SV.



Stay up to date with the current happenings of the Lake County Amateur Radio Club on Facebook.

To find us type LCARC in the Facebook search box or <http://www.facebook.com/LCARC>



Chapter 36 - Northwest Indiana

~ Creaky Knees and Rusty Keys ~



Ham Year's Resolutions

Benjamin Straw, KC9UNS

With the new year upon us, what are your 2013 new years amateur radio resolutions?

As we all do every year, we try and make and keep personal resolutions. One of mine from last year was to quit smoking. As of this writing it will be 3 weeks and counting. For 2013 I want to do something a little different, I want to set me resolutions around the greatest hobby I have ever had.

- Upgrade straight to extra. This won't require much, just some studying time. I was hoping to achieve my General by the end of 2012, but no such luck!
- Learn CW, its always been hard on me to learn a new language, I've learned a few snippets of code, its just getting the brain to fire the right nerves to learn the rest.
- Attend a Field Day, missed the last one due to having

other obligations, and from working a few contests I can see the hype surrounding field day.

- Achieve an award. My DXCC might be the one I achieve by the end of next year, achieving an award as a no code tech is kinda hard, and with only 10 and a solar cycle that wants to be a pain in the caboose doesn't help.
- More antennas in the air. With fingers crossed, I am hoping to purchase a new home, and better air time.
- Do more DIY. So looks like a two for one, build things, and have patience in troubleshooting.

So that's what I've come up with for now. Have a good holiday and new year everyone!

Benjamin Straw, KC9UNS

Proper Kerchunking

Bob Witte, KØNR



Recently, on one of the email reflectors associated with repeater owners, someone asked how to deal with kerchunkers on the repeater. The term kerchunk means to key up the repeater to see if it is there. It just takes a quick push of the Push-to-Talk (PTT) button on the transceiver to bring up most repeaters, resulting in a kerchunk sound.

It seems that this repeater owner had someone that was kerchunking his repeater on a regular basis and it was making him looney. This led to the usual discussion of whether kerchunking is acceptable, legal or moral and whether it should or should not be considered a capital offense.

Clearly, some radio amateurs have not been schooled in the

proper way to kerchunk a repeater. The proper method for kerchunking is to key the transmitter and say your callsign, followed by the word "kerchunking". This simultaneously identifies your station and indicates the purpose of your transmission.

To make the practice of repeater kerchunking even more efficient, I am proposing the adoption of these new Q signals:

QKC: I am kerchunking the repeater

QKC?: Are you kerchunking the repeater?

Thank you for your attention to this important topic concerning good amateur practice.
73, Bob KØNR.com

Ham radio DIY portable VHF/UHF repeater.



Video Link: http://youtu.be/VMkULsNU2_A

This is a VHF/UHF repeater built into a waterproof pelican case.

Parts list if you want to build your own:

1470 pelican case

4X Yaesu FT-60R radios

Radio-Tone repeater controller (either the duplex or cross band controller will work)

Way too much spare time.

How to Purchase apps in the iTunes store on a Work phone

Benjamin Straw, KC9UNS



Some companies wont allow one to buy a App from a company phone, reason being the phone/account is tied to a company credit card.

So these 7 steps make it so you can purchase apps with out getting charged

Step 1: Buy iTunes gift card (any amount)

Step 2: On your iPhone Open iTunes or App Store

Step 3: On first page scroll to bottom and touch "Redeem"

Step 4: Scratch off Code from back of gift card

Step 5: Enter Code on Screen

Step 6: Click "Redeem"

Step 7: Enter passwords if prompted

Now the account being used will be credited for amount on the gift card and should show the balance left on that account.

WW1X's WaveGuild v.1.2

WaveGuide is the amateur radio operator's ultimate utility for determining HF propagation conditions at the touch of a finger.

Utilizing data from popular DX clusters like PSK Reporter, DX Watch, Reverse Beacon Network, and WSPRnet, WaveGuide plots real-time propagation conditions on a global map, connecting stations with great circles to show exactly where band conditions are best. The colors of the great circles indicate the band, so it's easy to visually determine how the ionosphere is behaving anywhere in the world.

WaveGuide was designed from the ground-up as a Universal app that works great on all iOS 5.1 and 6.0 devices, including iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch.

WaveGuide is commonly used to :

- See how band conditions fluctuate worldwide throughout the course of the day.
- Chase rare DX stations using the DX Watch cluster.
- Find out if that new antenna is really getting out: tap out your callsign in CW and see who picks you up on the Reverse Beacon Network.
- Using PSK Reporter, track signals received by your home station while you're away. How many countries can you collect?
- Be the first one to see a band opening by observing WSPRnet contacts, or see how far your QRPp setup will get out!

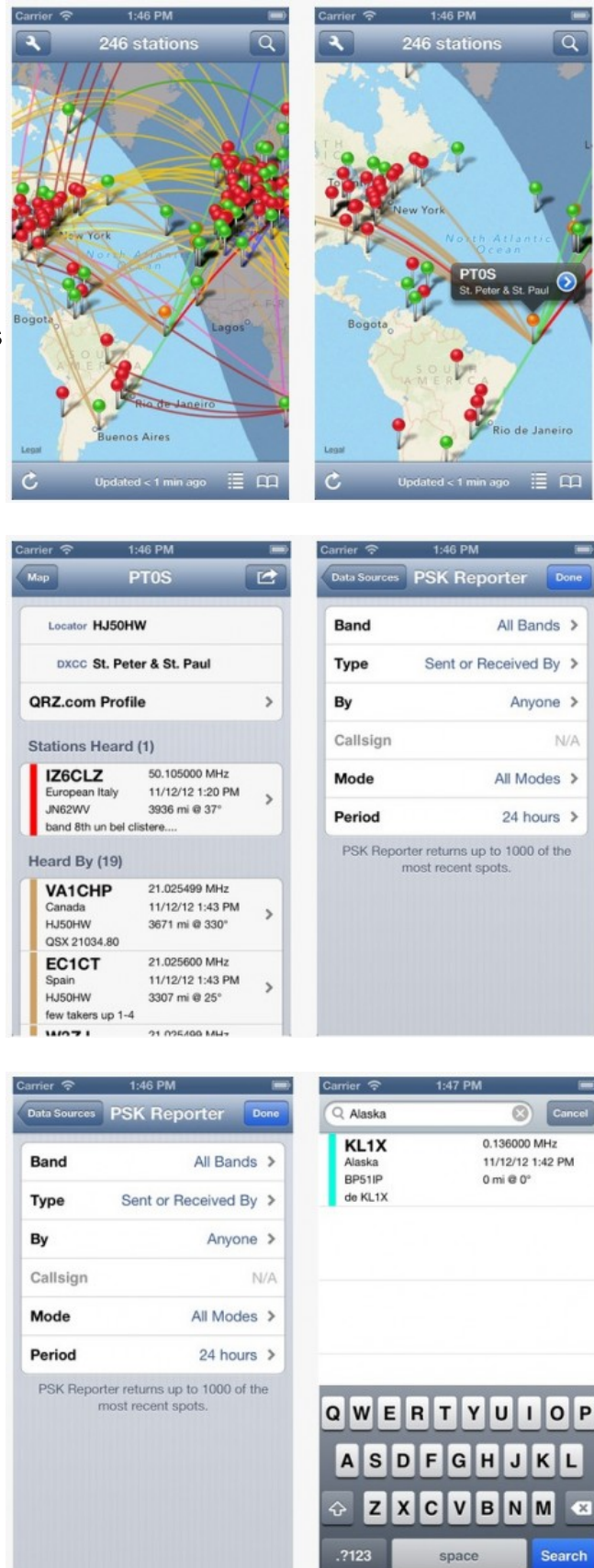
WaveGuide includes powerful features such as :

- Filter your search by parameters such as band, callsign, grid square, mode, and time period.
- View details for each transmission, including time, DXCC entity, frequency, distance, and bearing.
- Find your current Maidenhead grid locator using GPS.
- Check on space weather indices and images.
- Overlay the gray line on the map.
- Added WSPRnet spots.

Apple Store

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/waveguide/id483066722?ls=1&mt=8>

Price: \$5 USD



Ten-Tec™ Argonaut VI QRP 1-10 Watt Transceiver (Model 539)

Ten-Tec has created another legend within the new 539 Argonaut VI. This "NEW" QRP transceiver incorporates the use of Ten-Tec's ASR design philosophy. This same low noise receiver design blended with advanced software control has been used with the 599 Eagle and RX-366 receiver giving you outstanding dynamic range and crystal clear audio.

Tired of extended long menu driven transceivers. Experience the simple, fun, and ease of use the Ten-Tec Argonaut VI offers. Designed right here in the USA, you will never find a more enjoyable QRP experience in such a small package with such outstanding receiver performance. The 539 will operate with any of the currently available, optional, 8 pin microphones. The legend lives on.



- New Speed Sensitive VFO tuning rate
- New 9.5-14 VDC power requirements
- Dynamic Range of 91dB @ 2 kHz
- 1-10 Watt adjustable power output
- Built in Curtis Mode A or B keying
- Keying output for 100 Watt Solid State Linear amplifier Model 418
- Operate digital modes with full rated output
- Legendary Ten-Tec quality QSK CW keying
- Standard 2.9 kHz Roofing Filter Included (2.5kHz effective through DSP)

Specifications:

GENERAL

- Microphone connector 8-pin on front panel
- Headphone Jack 1/4" stereo, accepts mono or stereo on rear panel
- External CW Key Jack 1/8" stereo, accepts mono or stereo on rear panel
- Aux DC Output Connector RCA 0.5A max connected to DC Power
- Frequency Range TX: 1.795-2.005 (160M), 3.495-4.005 (80M), 6.995-7.305 (40M), 10.095-10.155 (30M), 13.995-14.355 (20M), 18.063-18.173 (17M), 20.995-21.455 (15M), 27.995-29.705 (10M).
- Frequency Range RX: 1.795-2.505 (160M), 3.495-5.005 (80M), 6.995-7.305 (40M), 9.995-10.155 (30M), 13.995-15.005 (20M), 18.063-18.173 (17M), 20.995-21.455 (15M), 27.995-29.705 (10M). Specifications apply within Amateur Radio bands Only.
- ACC Din Connector 8 PIN DIN Connector-Line in, Line out, Aux PTT, Ext Key, Clock, Data, Enable, Ground.
- DC Power Connector AMP MATE-N-LOCK, 2 pin
- Fuse Automotive Blade Style 7.5 A 32V
- Tuning Steps 10, 100, 1000, speed sensitive, VFO Lock
- Frequency Stability +/- 0.5 PPM over operating temperature
- Antenna Impedance 50 Ohm nominal
- Antenna connector 1 x SO-239
- Modes USB, LSB, CW, (AM optional)
- Memories 100
- Supply Voltage 9.5 – 14 Volts DC
- Operating temperature Range 0-50 degrees Celsius
- Dimensions (HxWxD) 2.25"x6.5"x7.6" (excluding knobs and connectors)
- Weight 3.6 pounds
- Construction Molded plastic front panel, aluminum chassis and Textured painted steel covers
- PC Control Port USB (using CCS USB to UART Driver)
- Display Custom FSTN monochrome LCD



- Display Backlight Variable RED, Blue, Green (internal settings)

RECEIVER

- SSB Sensitivity Better than 0.7uV (0.5 Typ), 2.4Khz, 10 db SINAD Preamp off
- AM Sensitivity Better than 4 uV, (2.0uV Typ) 30% Mod, 6Kh BW, 10 dB SINAD Preamp off
- Selectivity IF1 2.9 Khz standard, 9.0018 Mhz, 2 options positions
- Selectivity IF2 30 Khz Lowpass filter
- Selectivity, DSP IF 100 built-in DSP filters from 100 – 6000Hz BW
- Third Order Intercept Point (IP3) 20dBm@20Khz tone separation/2.9 kHz roofing filter, 20dBm@ 2kHz separation/700Hz Roofing filter, S5 method, preamp off
- IMD3 Dynamic Range Typical 98dB/20kHz, 98dB/2kHz, 500 Hz BW,calculated 2/3(IP3-Noise Floor), preamp off
- Blocking Dynamic Range 138dB/20kHz, 140dB/2kHz, 600 Hz BW, RF Gain @ 12 o'clock, preamp off
- LO Phase Noise 124 dBc/Hz @ 20 kHz, 114dBc/Hz @ 2 kHz
- Noise Floor Typical -138dBm/500Hz BW/preamp on, -128dBm /500Hz BW preamp off
- IF Frequencies 1st : 9.0018Mhz, 2nd : 22.2kHz ,3rd : 0Hz (DSP)
- IF REJECTION Typ 74dB
- 1st IF Image Rejection Typ 59 dB
- 2nd IF Image Rejection Typ 69 dB
- Other spurious Response Rejection: > 80dB
- Birdies Typically less than -100dBm equivalent (no more than 5 birdies greater than -100 dBm equivalent)
- Pass Band Tuning +/- 2.1 kHz, 5 Hz steps. Small dead zone for centering
- Preamp Nominal 12 dB
- Audio Output 0.3 Watts into 8 ohm, 10k-ohms at 1 kHz
- Microphone Sensitivity 1 mV RMS for full power output, internal gain adjustment, 9v dc for electret elements
- SSB Carrier Suppression >60 dB
- Unwanted Sideband Suppression >60 dB at 1 kHz
- T/R Switching PTT or VOX on SSB, AM. QSK on CW
- CW Keyer Type Internal Curtis Mode A or B, selectable
- CW Rise and Fall Time 5 ms
- CW Offset adjustable
- CW Keyer Speed 5-50 WPM, adjustable weighting
- Current Drain 3 amps at 10 watts
- Third Order Intermod Better than 30 dB below peak
- SSB Generation DSP Generated

of DSP generated TX Bandwidths 2 built-in DSP filters – automatically selected based on mode – 2.9 kHz for CW and SSB, (6 kHz for AM option) Note: the optional 6kHz filter is required for AM transmit

OPTIONS

- 4 Pole Roofing Filters 700 Hz, 6 kHz
- 702 Dynamic Mic
- 418 Solid State 100 Watt Linear Amplifier
- 712 Digital USB Sound Card Cable

Price: \$995.00 USD Link: www.TenTech.com

A SHORT HISTORY OF AMATEUR RADIO

Ernst Solberg, Dated: March 29, 1943, University of Maryland Libraries

SUMMARY

Amateur radio has grown up with the science of radio. Its history, due to the changes made during World War I, can be divided into two parts, the pre-war period and the post-war period. During the pre-war period, enthusiasts first appeared with the news of Marconi's first transmissions. In 1912, the government regulated amateur radio and issued a booklet containing the names of all American amateurs. In 1914, the American Radio Relay League was founded, and, in the following year, the first issue of its official publication, QST, appeared. In 1917, the war shut down amateur operation, and, of 6,000 "hams" in the country, over 4,000 went into the services. After the war, the principal activities dealt with long distance communication, much success being found on wave lengths below 200 meters. In 1923, the first amateur Transatlantic conversation was achieved. In 1927, amateur short wave bands were considerably cut by the International Radio Conference in Washington. "Ham" is derived from an English corruption of the word "amateur". Due to the war, all amateurs are off the air at present.

A HISTORY OF AMATEUR RADIO

BACKGROUND

Amateur radio has grown up with the science of radio itself. It is a hobby more closely bound with engineering than any other, and its ranks are dotted with devotees from all walks of life from the skilled technician to the grade school boy anxiously searching the band for an answer to his first CQ. Marconi, pioneer in radio investigation, liked to call himself the first amateur. Many other distinguished men followed him as "hams", and these men did much to build radio to its present important position. It is proposed in the following pages to give a short history of amateur radio and to show some of the things amateurs have accomplished.

The difference between amateur radio before and after World War I is the difference between the inefficient crashing spark gap and the quiet effectiveness of the three element vacuum tube. Radio before and after the war was considerably different because the war stimulated development, and improvements were made in many respects. Vacuum tubes were coming into extensive use and radio had, as a whole, made much progress. It is for this reason that the history to follow will be divided into two parts, Pre-War and Post-War Amateur Radio.

PRE-WAR AMATEUR RADIO

About the year 1900, Marconi began to show the feasibility of wireless communication, and his work was widely publicized. This publicity created much interest in persons all over this country, who read eagerly of the strange new invention. The idea of communication without wires or other visible medium held a fascination which has always been the motive impelling those who would become "hams". When Marconi sent his first "s" across the Atlantic, there were several amateur receiving stations set up in attempts to receive him. These were quite unknown to each other, and it might really be considered that amateur radio was born then. According to Maxim, none of them succeeded in picking up the signal, but this did not discourage them. As a matter of fact, the failure spurred these early amateurs to even greater efforts.

REGULATION

Up to the year 1912, there was no legal regulation of amateur radio, but by that time it had become evident that it was necessary to prevent interference by amateur radio with the marine and commercial services. These latter were already established and increasing rapidly in importance. Consequently,

an international congress was called which resulted in the Wireless Law of 1912, limiting amateur operation. Station and operator's licenses were required, and a call book listing all amateurs was issued. Amateur operation was prohibited on all wave lengths higher than 200 meters, anything lower being considered worthless. Perhaps the most valuable result of the law at that time was the call book, because it revealed the true magnitude of the hobby by publishing the names and addresses of all American "hams". To the orderly mind of Hiram Percy Maxim, this list immediately gave the idea of organization into a unit, which resulted in the founding of the American Radio Relay League in 1914.

In 1915, the League's official organ, QST (The Q code signal for "Attention, all stations") came into being, and it is still published every month.

With the organization of the League, various systems of relay stations were spread across the country until, in 1916, three East-West and three North-South trunk lines existed. In 1917, a transcontinental message was sent from Hartford to Los Angeles and back in one hour and twenty minutes. The route was from Hartford to Albany, to Jefferson City, to Denver, to Los Angeles, and, at that time eighty minutes was a record.

WAR-TIME AMATEUR RADIO

The first World War brought an abrupt halt to all amateur transmission and other activities. Over 4,000 "hams" enlisted in the armed forces, and 75 percent of the pre-war amateurs were sent to France. There, radio at first played a very secondary role to wire communication, but gradually it increased in importance. After the Armistice, an American net connecting Chaumont, Treves, Luxemburg, Spa, and Coblenz, handled a large part of the administrative business of the time. American forces in France used French radio equipment because it had been field tested and was better adapted to military use.

POST-WAR AMATEUR RADIO

After the war, the government was not enthusiastic about amateur radio, and it was almost a year after the Armistice before the ban on amateur transmission was lifted. With the war, the vacuum tube had come into considerable use and proved to be much more efficient than the old rotary spark gaps. With more efficient equipment, concepts of long distance operation changed rapidly from 1,000 to 1,500 to 2,000 miles, so that, by 1920, serious consideration was being given to transatlantic contacts. As yet, by 1921, no European had heard an American amateur signal. It was suspected that this was because of European operators' unfamiliarity with 200 meter equipment. For that reason an American amateur was sent to England and there heard 30 American stations. In 1922, another test was carried out and 315 American signals were logged, and, moreover, one French and two British stations were heard here. No transatlantic contacts had been made up to this time and they did not appear likely at 200 meters. Consequently, the lower wavelengths were investigated by various amateurs with remarkable results, and in 1921, the Navy enlisted amateur aid to study the higher frequencies. As the wavelength dropped, distance results grew constantly better. In 1923, contact was established for several hours between a Frenchman, Deloy, and two Americans. Since that time transatlantic communication has been quite common. Wavelength of 110 meters was used by Deloy, and investigations were carried on all around 100 meters at the time. In 1924, a 9,000-mile contact was made between Connecticut and New Zealand. As a result of this increased work below 200 meters, it became evident that the bands below that wavelength were far from worthless. With the increasing interest of commercial companies, it became necessary to partition the available frequencies into bands.

Continued On Next Page

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American Radio Relay League officials obtained bands at 80, 40, 20, 10, and even 5 meters, although little had been done with them prior to this time. These bands were soon tested and excellent distance results obtained. Up to 1926, eight amateurs had contacted all continents; at the present time about 5,000 have done so.

In 1927 at the International Radiotelegraph Conference in Washington, amateur radio became a semi-permanent institution when the Conference recognized it as an accepted form of radio communication. The frequency bands assigned by the Conference were narrower than those previously held but the deficiency has been made up to some degree by the improvement in equipment, such as the introduction of crystal control, single signal receivers, etc. After this date, development has consisted for the most part of technical improvement and expansion of activities already begun. Some of these activities before this War included: Army and Navy amateur nets, emergency work in times of disaster, cooperation with expeditions (200 have been assisted), and experimental development.

"HAM"

The term "ham" should be explained. It was originated by 19th century English sportswriters, whose abbreviation for amateur was "Am". Cockney dialect changed it to "ham" and in some way it reached American landlines where it referred to newcomers and cubs. It eventually got around to amateur radio telegraph operators, who have accepted it with considerable pride.

Today the amateur bands are temporarily silent. Amateurs assist Civilian Defense, experiment along various lines, and try curious methods of communicating with their fellows (Ex. - Through the gas and water pipes, supersonics, etc.). Every "ham" looks eagerly forward to the end of the War when his and 60,000 other transmitters can go back on the air.

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- (2) Codel, Martin. Radio and Its Future. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1930.
- (3) Editors. "A. Quarter of a Century with QST." QST, 24 (Dec. 1940), 12 - 21.
- (4) Warner, K.B.. "It Seems to Us." QST, 23 (May, 1939), 49 - 53.
- (5) The editors. The Radio Amateurs Handbook. Concord: Rumford Press, 1940

Records of Phi Mu, Special Collections, University of Maryland Libraries
Paper tracing the history of amateur radio prior to and following World War I, including regulation of the airwaves and the origin of "ham". Includes illustrations. This paper was prepared as part of initiation Solberg's into Phi Mu, an engineering honor society.

Ritual

Jeff Davis, KE9V

Amateur radio in this day and age is a ritual. What we practice isn't essential. Mankind is surrounded by personal communication options unheard of in a previous age and the globe would keep spinning in the absence of CW, Part 97, DXCC, logging programs, JOTA, the ARRL and every single radio contest imagined.

When we feel the need to be important we trot out the old line about "when all else fails" but that's just marketing and misplaced hubris.

RITUAL: a set of actions, performed mainly for their symbolic value.

There were days when radio experimenters and tinkerers changed the world with their invention and perfection of the wireless – but that ended long ago. Unlike the days of the Second World War, the military no longer values the radio skills of hobbyists. And none of your children will ever make a living in television or radio repair like was common fifty years ago.

The age when we were really important, our moment of glory, is firmly behind us and now we live in the long shadow of the greatest generation.

At first read that may appear strident, but my intent isn't to be provocative or to denigrate our hobby. I simply believe that entering a New Year is a good time for self-examination. Understanding our place in the order of things is the first step in gaining the proper perspective about what we do. Having that settled, we can better appreciate it for what it is. Not what it used to be or what we imagined it to once have been.

(The truth would be hard enough to see even if other people weren't routinely trying to hide it.)

Getting back to the notion of our hobby as ritual, I don't see

that as a bad thing. The purpose of rituals are varied and can serve to strengthen social bonds, serve as a demonstration of respect, stating one's affiliation, obtaining social acceptance or approval for some event – or – sometimes, just for the pleasure of the ritual itself.

So what's wrong with that?

The intricate process that occurs during the [changing of the guards](#) at Buckingham Palace is a ritual, and few complain that it isn't worthwhile. The [eternal flames](#) that burn over graves and holy places all around the world is yet another example of ritual. Life would certainly continue in the absence of these, but we place some value in such things.

"Rituals can aid in creating a firm sense of group identity. Humans have used rituals to create social bonds and even to nourish interpersonal relationships. For example, nearly all fraternities and sororities have rituals incorporated into their structure, from elaborate and sometimes "secret" initiation rites, to the formalized structure of convening a meeting. Thus, numerous aspects of ritual and ritualistic proceedings are engrained into the workings of those societies."

Think about that the next time you're sending a signal report and your local weather conditions to a stranger 500 miles distant. We practice this ritual because we enjoy it and it engenders a kind of fellowship that cannot be conjured by simply ringing up a total stranger on the telephone. Shared experiences often creates a bond between people and from that emerges a fraternity of like minded souls.

Making contact with others and sharing experiences, frequently resulting in friendship, through the ritual of operating a personal radio station. That's the real value of amateur radio in the 21st century.

Visit Jeff's Blog, Smoke Curls @ KE9V.net



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Lake County Amateur Radio Club Membership Application

Lake County Amateur Radio Club — PO BOX 90 — Crown Point, IN 46308-0090

Please complete this form and return mail (address above) with your dues. Make all checks payable to the Lake County Amateur Radio Club. You may also return this application at one of our club meetings, held the 2nd Friday of each month at the Lake County Department of Homeland Security Office, 2900 W 93rd Ave, Crown Point, Indiana

If you want a receipt and ID card mailed to you, send a SASE. You may also pickup your card at a regular club meeting.

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DUES ENCLOSED (please check one — also indicate if you are an ARRL Member)

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